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Cc: Blumenfeld, Jared[BLUMENFELD.JARED@EPA.GOV]; Kao, Jessica[Kao.Jessica@epa.gov]; Zito, Kelly[ZITO.KELLY@EPA.GOV]; Harris-Bishop, Rusty[Harris-Bishop.Rusty@epa.gov]; Li, Corine[Li.Corine@epa.gov]; Quast, Sylvia[Quast.Sylvia@epa.gov]
From: Strauss, Alexis
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 3:50:23 PM
Subject: Animas/R9

On this morning's call of R6, R8, R9, OSWER (Mathy) and ORD (Tom Burke), we discussed how to address the need to QA data while there's pressure to put out raw data asap, and how to add data in consistent formats across regions. As it's taking 3-4 days to analyze and turn around data, R6 is pressing ORD for **faster field screening**, not laboratory methods; the shipping time to labs is creating 3-4 day delays. ORD asked R6 to send a list of priority analytes. Decisions urgently needed re safe levels for irrigation, for livestock, etc...what screening levels, what safe consumption levels. R8 lead for toxicology and interpretation of data, and risk screening criteria.

R6 is pressing OSWER for greater urgency in helping the Regions address metals testing and other capability in the field at multiple locations. For example, a drinking water well inventory for this area in R8 exceeds 1,000 wells, and locals are reporting contaminated water in several wells. I noted we need a mechanism to sample a very large number of wells across R6, 8 and 9 and the accompanying **commercial lab capacity** – asked ORD and OSWER to help put this in place.

I noted that other partners (eg Navajo Nation, or NM, others) will likely collect data of their own, which needs QA and should be posted in the common place with all other (EPA) data.

This timing issue of data could be handled via unified command, which is being set up by R8: ie unified command gets raw data for decision-making, and once QA'd, unified command releases it publicly. ORD asked Regions to ensure our local CDC staff are involved and provide help.

Lastly, the NN Atty General (Evelyn Branch?) reached out to Joan Card, R8...she will relay that message to us momentarily. Sylvia, your lead for reply.

Thanks, Alexis

From: Zito, Kelly
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2015 8:19 AM
To: Smith, Paula; Purchia, Liz; Harris-Bishop, Rusty; Yogi, David; Higuchi, Dean; Lee, Monica; Maier, Brent; Gray, David; Blumenfeld, Jared; Kao, Jessica; Keener, Bill; Strauss, Alexis
Cc: Manzanilla, Enrique; Allen, HarryL
Subject: Region 9 update - GKM Response

Here's the latest information on R9 activities.

Kelly

EPA Region 9 Activities

On Saturday (Aug. 8) the President of the Navajo Nation declared a State of Emergency for the San Juan River valley. On Sunday, the President and his staff toured the Gold King Mine Site. R9 PIO Rusty Harris-Bishop escorted the President on the tour. The President and his staff then attended the community meeting in Durango.

The discharge has moved quickly and was observed near Kirtland, NM. Navajo officials have reacted quickly, assessing their well fields and drinking and irrigation water intake systems and issuing a precautionary "do not use" public service announcement regarding water from potentially impacted sources. Region 9 held a conference call Sunday with Navajo Nation EPA (NNEPA) and Navajo Department of Public Safety.

Region 9 has deployed an On Scene Coordinator (OSC) to the Durango Incident Command Post to coordinate Navajo field activity updates and results with Region 8 and ensure command messages get back to Navajo officials. The Region has also deployed a Public Information Officer (PIO) to participate in a Joint Information Center (JIC), presently in Durango, with and other the affected Federal, State, County and Tribal agencies.

The Navajo EPA surface water monitoring program (Shiprock Office) collected water and sediment samples from the San Juan River - prior to the spill impact. Region 9 has provided 6 START contractors to coordinate and conduct increased sample collection and lab analysis in conjunction with NNEPA. This joint EPA/NNEPA river sampling program has commenced focusing on the San Juan between Shiprock/Hogback, NM area and Mexican Hat, UT and will continue for the foreseeable future.

A Region 9 OSC will report to Farmington on Monday to assist. NNEPA also requested drinking water sampling support immediately for Navajo operated water intakes. NNEPA and USEPA drinking water experts agreed to inventory and assess water sources including private wells and intakes.

Region 9 will be providing assistance to Navajo NTUA (utilities) to deliver water to the areas impacted by the Gold King Mine Spill - starting with the Montezuma Creek area. NTUA is sourcing the water from their Sweetwater wells and filling up the service tanks in the affected

areas. The ERRS contractor will be providing assistance in the transportation of these waters.

Two Community Involvement Coordinators (CICs) arrived in Farmingtonon Sunday. The CICs will partner with NNEPA and NN Department of Public Safety to ensure comprehensive outreach to all affected Navajo Chapters. The CICs have begun working with local Navajo Chapter officials and will participate in public meetings at Aneth and Oljato on 8/10.

Sent from my iPhone